

The Virginia Christian



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Deyé mon, gen mon *(Behind mountains are more mountains)* — a Haitian proverb

Some personal reflections on Haiti by Rev. Bill Moore

Haitian culture is filled with proverbs, such as this one. Haiti, like much of Virginia, is quite mountainous, and the mountains are always visible in the background. To say “behind mountains are more mountains” is to describe a physical reality. But this proverb states another kind of reality. It is often used in a negative sense: “behind today’s difficulties, there are more difficulties.”

This proverb could be the national motto of Haiti which has struggled to overcome injustice, tragedy, disaster and poverty throughout its history. Haiti’s “mountains” have included slavery, international isolation, a series of brutal and greedy dictators, foreign intervention, crippling international debt, environmental degradation and extreme poverty. And now comes the latest blow: the 7.0 magnitude earthquake on February 12, causing widespread damage, death, injury and suffering. How can the people of Haiti ever scale this “mountain”?

But Haitians are good at climbing the “mountains” that they face every day. When Amy and I lived in Haiti from 1986 to 1989 (working as short-term missionaries with the American Baptist’s International Ministries), we encountered people who were extremely industrious and hard working. With few resources and opportunities, people went about their lives trying to do the best they could to feed their children, send them to school, build a life

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Calendar:

- Clergy & Spouses
Retreat at Natural
Bridge – Feb. 22-24
- CWF SPA dates:
March 20, April 10,
April 24, May 22
- Disciples Men
Retreat – April 9-11
- YMC Retreat – April
16-18
- Regional Board
Meeting – April 24
- Craig Springs Work
Weekend – May
28-31
- Regional Assembly
– June 4-6



Lee Parker

Reflections from the Regional Minister

While in college I visited a number of different churches. These congregations ranged from conservative independent Baptist to Roman Catholic and many in between. I learned a good deal about how churches welcome (or don't welcome) strangers. Rather quickly I knew that I would never return to some churches and in other settings I felt welcome and knew that returning would be comfortable. The difference was easy to feel but only in later years have I gained insight into the more tangible reasons. Being hospitable to visitors and strangers is one of the most important things a congregation can do. How do we make visitors more welcome?

When visiting, I generally didn't want to be noticed; I wanted to be able to worship and observe. Some churches I visited made a point of welcoming visitors in a way that made me stand out. A name badge marked "visitor" really makes one conspicuous. One church I visited went so far in recognizing visitors that the pastor invited members sitting beside a visitor to stand and introduce them. I never returned to that church.

Not everyone knows the words to the Lord's Prayer. More specifically, is it "debts and debtors," "trespasses and trespassers," or "sins and sinners"? Not everyone knows the words to the "Gloria Patri." There is more than one doxology. What we print in our bulletins makes a difference in how easy it is for visitors to be worshipful without worrying about looking foolish. The best experience I had in an unfamiliar setting was at a Catholic church. I sat down and a nun came over and asked if she could sit with me. She asked if I was Catholic, but she already knew I wasn't. She offered to help me follow the Mass. I gladly accepted her offer and proceeded to kneel and participate in responses appropriately. Her expression of hospitality allowed me to worship.

I visit a lot of Disciples churches. They all celebrate communion weekly, but almost every congregation does communion slightly differently.

The Virginia Christian
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In some services the pastor is not a part of the communion service. In others the pastor does everything except the elders' prayers. How is communion received? Is it when passed, or taken all together, or some combination? A few words of explanation printed in the bulletin can make a visitor comfortable. Most important for the visitor is knowing that in a Disciples church the table is open to everyone—that everyone is welcome.

There are others ways congregations can cultivate a culture of hospitality. Try not to assume anything, but attempt to anticipate a visitor's questions and needs.

Clear signage—both inside and outside—is helpful. A greeter handing out bulletins can direct parents to the nursery. Your church website can even be a preview for visitors by including important information, and perhaps pictures of the inside of the church building.

And although one doesn't want to be overwhelmed by over-enthusiastic greetings, friendliness shown by those seated nearby can go a long way towards making worship a warm experience for a visitor.

None of us like to be self-conscious or uncomfortable. Congregations should do all they can to make visitors feel at home and welcome. When we do hospitality right we are in a much better position to tell people about Jesus and incorporate them into the family of faith.



Week of Compassion on the ground in Haiti

While it is true that the delivery of aid in Haiti has been hampered by many factors, including infrastructure-related challenges, Week of Compassion aid is reaching many of those who need it through its cooperative work on the ground.

Martin Coria, Church World Service Regional Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, now based in the Dominican Republic and working closely with Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicana (SSID), noted that with pre-positioned CWS kits and blankets, SSID was able to provide relief to the victims of Haiti's massive earthquake in the first twenty-four hours of the disaster. Since then, CWS, working with local agencies and groups, has done significant relief work in Haiti.

Week of Compassion is committed to Haiti for the long term. Once the news cameras are gone and the celebrity telethons are long forgotten, Week of Compassion will still be at work in Haiti. Your gifts make that possible.

Many churches are already receiving the Week of Compassion offering which is scheduled for February 21 and 28.

Around the Old Dominion

Ashland—On Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009, Rev. George A. Williams, Jr., was recognized for his ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and honored as Minister Emeritus of Slash Christian Church. A graduate of Lynchburg College and Union Seminary in Richmond, Rev. Williams' call to ministry has been mostly in Virginia, but also has taken him to North Carolina, Texas and Oklahoma. From 1961 to 1969, he was Associate Executive Secretary of the Va. Council of Churches. He served from 1968 to 1996 as Journal Clerk and Chief Deputy Clerk of the Va. House of Delegates in Richmond. His busy ministry also included youth work, camp and conferences (he was director of one of the first camp events at Craig Springs in 1961), radio and television. He was a member of Hanover Ave. CC in Richmond from 1955 to 2002 and was named Minister Emeritus there in 2002. From 1968 to 1986, he served Sharon and Bethpage Christian Churches in Louisa County.



Mechanicsville—For the fifth consecutive year, Trinity Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Mechanicsville will present “Leonardo da Vinci’s The Last Supper” during Holy Week. Join Jesus and his disciples as the famous painting comes to life in drama and music.

The first performance is scheduled for Palm Sunday, Mar. 28, at 4:00 p.m. (the only matinee). All other performances are at 7:00 p.m.: Monday, Mar. 29; Wednesday Mar. 31; and Maundy Thursday, Apr. 1. This moving performance is a great outing for families, youth groups, and adult groups. Nursery care is not available. For free reserved tickets or directions call (804) 746-4838 (if no answer, leave phone number and number of tickets on voicemail) or visit www.trinitychristianchurch.com.

Lynchburg—The 20th Annual John M. Turner Lecture on Life and Faith will be presented at First Christian Church in Lynchburg on Sunday, May 2, at 3:00 p.m. The lecturer this year will be Dr. James Joseph, former US Ambassador to South Africa and current Professor of the Practice of Public Policy Studies at Duke University and Cape Town University, South Africa. Dr. Joseph will also present the Shumate Lecture at Lynchburg College on Monday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m. in Snidow Chapel.

For an online copy of *The Virginia Christian* go to www.ccinva.org. The next issue of *The Virginia Christian* will be published in May 2010. Deadline for submissions is **April 12**. Articles submitted for publication in “Around the Old Dominion” should be no more than 300 words. Articles and photos may be submitted by mail to the Regional Office or by email to: virginiachristian@ccinva.org.

Ministerial Changes

Bob Johnson from Graham CC to Petunia CC, Wytheville, in Feb. 2010.

Nathan Brown from West Side CC, Portsmouth, to FCC, Hopkinsville, KY.

Steven Jumper to Centennial CC in McCoy, VA.

David Black has retired from Salem Christian Church, Bumpass.

Phil Curran has completed his ministry at Broad Street CC, Martinsville.

Jody Johnson from Rocky Mount CC to a ministry position in Canada at the end of March.

Youth News

Revolution:

Turn your life around

Youth from all over the state are encouraged to attend the Youth Ministry Committee Spring Retreat, to be held at Craig Springs Camp & Conference Center, Friday-Sunday, April 16-18, 2010. This event for 9th-12th graders is being planned, designed and implemented by the YMC of the region. The cost is only \$50 and includes meals (Saturday breakfast through Sunday lunch) and lodging, games, worship, keynotes, small group time, and more! Participants should plan to arrive between 7 and 9 p.m. on Friday and leave after lunch on Sunday.

It's still possible to have a brick inscribed for the Regional Office

There is space for about 45 more bricks at the entrance to the Regional Office. Inscribed bricks are free with a contribution of \$100 or more to the Regional Office building fund.

Individuals, groups, or congregations may have a brick inscribed. The gift/inscription may be in honor or memory of someone.

The inscription may be up to 3 lines consisting of 18 letters each, including spaces. You do not have to use the entire 18 letters per line but you cannot go over 18 letters per line and no more than 3 lines per brick.

Please print your inscription:

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

Your name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone # _____

Email address: _____

Send completed information and contribution to: Regional Office, Christian Church in Virginia, 1290 Enterprise Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24502 or email Sue Gordon: ccinva_sg@hotmail.com.

Thanks to Virginia Christian Contributors in 2009

The Virginia Christian, published four times a year, is one of the best sources of information available concerning our congregations and districts, the Region, and the General Church.

Listed below are those who sent gifts during 2009. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We apologize if any names have been omitted or information incorrectly printed; please let us know if changes need to be made.

You can also help by:

- (1) letting us know promptly of address changes or deletions so that we can avoid the cost of postal returns,
- (2) choosing to read *The Virginia Christian* online instead of receiving it by mail (see directions for how to do this on page 8),
- (3) sending names of all who want to receive the newsletter (especially new church members),
- (4) submitting short news articles and good, clear pictures (see page 4),
- (5) encouraging the members of your congregation to use the envelope found in this issue in support of the publication, and
- (6) promoting *Virginia Christian* Sunday on March 6, 2010.

Contributors

Adkins, Lionel & Louise B.
 Ainsworth, Jerry & Kay
 Akers, Beatrice
 Almond, Marian
 Amos, Ann Hope
 Anderton, Nellie Mae
 Andes, Tarleton
 Arrington, J. Clark
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 Austin, Dr. & Mrs. Jack
 Bailey, Atha
 Beam, Arthur & Jean
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 Blackwell, Bill & Mary
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 Dalton, Kenneth & Linda

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 Dillard, Dorothy H.
 Dobyons, Mozelle
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 Dunlap, Rhoda W.
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 Evans, Janice B.
 Fain, Marie
 Faison, Claudious C.
 Featherstun, Patricia A.
 Ferrara, Carol S.

Ferrell, Lucille J.	Mattox, John & Betty	Seay, Anna T.
Flint, Lorraine K.	Mays, Pat	Seay, Carolyn
Garrett, Jane	Mays, Rev. Dwight & Vicki	Shinn, Charles
Garver, Nancy H.	McMillan, Robert &	Small, Herbert & Arline
Gayle, Shelby & Frank	Jacqueline	Smith, Emily & Ralph L.
Giles, Ellice & Gracie	Meanley, Mr. & Mrs.	Smith, Janet
Glassock, Evelyn	Edward	Stevenson, Mary Virginia
Goodman, Ernest &	Merritt, Robert & Vera	Stratton, Cindy
Barbara	Millan, Robert & Jackie	Sudderth, Cheryl
Gordon, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald	Mitchell, Herbert B.	Sulzberger, Ann & Bill
Gregory, Milton & Nancy	Mitchell, Mary H.	Surratt, Frieda C.
Grogan, Louise	Moody, William & Hazel	Suter, Harold & Lucille
Hall, Dianne	Moore, Jack & Nancy	Sutphin, Bonnie M.
Hanks, Berlin & Opal	Moore, Pauline & James	Taylor, Ed
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Hart, Phillip & Diana	Mulkey, Kenneth & Rachel	Thompson, Ron & Velma
Hastings, The Rev. Larry &	Murrell, Hilda P.	Townsend, Tom & Nell
Susan	Noel, James & Alice	Truesdale, Elizabeth
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Ola	Oliver, Jimmy & Patty E.	Turlington, Jean
Haynes, Morton & Alma	Oliver, Terry	Umberger, Martha
Helton, Betty Jean	Oliver, Wm & Beth	Walker, John W.
Hill, Sandy & Ed	Ott, Greg & Peggy	Wallace, Gail
Hundley, Sue A.	Owen, Shirley	Wallace, John & Sue
Hurt, Roxie	Owens, Virginia I.	Ware, Constance G.
Jefferson, Tom & Jean	Pannell, Marie	Ware, Mr. & Mrs. John N.
Johns, Harry & Shirley	Parker, Lee & Jane	Washburn, C. Curtis
Johnston, Arthur &	Parker, Polly & Bruce	Waters, Mary C.
Mildred	Parker, Roy & Ann	Webb, Wayne & Helen
Kavanaugh, Paul W.	Parrish, Wayne & Joan	Webster, Elizabeth B.
Keister, Gerry	Patterson, Ann & Bill Jr.	Werner, Anna Lee
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Kimbrough, Lottie K.	Peris, Tony & Mary	White, Eugene & Mary
Knipp, Revs. Virgil & Sue	Perry, Carlton & Lois	Whitehurst, William H. Jr.
Krantz, Sherri	Powers, Tucker & Nancy	& Lois
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Little, Alice T.	Richard, Elizabeth H.	Williamson, Charlotte H.
Long, Elwood & Marie	Richards, Patrica & James	Wilson, Rachel
Lorton, Lila	Richardson, Frances M.	Wiseman, Betty B.
Love, Edna W.	Schneider, William &	Wright, Robert & Martha
Loving, Alvin	Nancy	Yeatts, Eliza F.
Lynch, Peggy	Schuermann, William S.	Yost, Leonard
Lynon, Emma Lou	Scott, Vernon & Elaine	Young, Herman & Hazel
Marshall, Danny & Marian	Seal, Shirley	Young, Ruth S.

Virginia Christian Contributors in 2009, continued

Organizations

Circle 4, Old Well Christian Church,
Spencer, in memory of Francis
Bobbitt

CWF, Gilboa Christian Church,
Mineral

CWF, Woodstock Christian Church,
Woodstock

CWF, First Christian Church,
Roanoke

CWF, Hillsville Christian Church,
Hillsville

CWF, Perseverance, Dundas

CWF, Westhampton Christian
Church, Roanoke

District III
Library, First Christian Church,
Winchester

Congregations

Bethany Christian Church, Richmond

Clifford Christian Church, Richlands

Draper Christian Church, Draper

First Christian Church, Winchester

Fort Lewis Christian Church, Salem

Mt Olive East Christian Church,
Martinsville

New Hope Christian Church, Alberta

Oak View Christian Church, Newport

Park View Christian Church,
Chesapeake

Poole Christian Church, Church Road

Saumsville Christian Church,
Maurertown

Strasburg Christian Church, Strasburg

Tazewell Christian Church, Tazewell

Timberlake Christian Church,
Lynchburg

Walnut Springs Christian Church,
Strasburg

Zion Christian Church, Maurertown

Please use the enclosed envelope to send your gift to
The Virginia Christian.



Suggested *Virginia Christian* Promotion Sunday:
March 6, 2010

A way to cut down on the Region's mailing and printing costs is to choose an electronic version of *The Virginia Christian*. When it is published, you would receive an email with a link to view it online. **To be removed from the "snail mail" list and receive an email with a link to the publication online, send an email to: regoffice.ccinva@verizon.net.**

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Spring 2010 SPA DAYS
(Self-Care, Prayer and Action Days for Women)
 REVELATION OF HOPE

This annual event provides a "time away" for women to gather to pray, study and fellowship together. Women's resources are introduced and events for the upcoming year showcased. This year's bible study of the book of Revelation will be explored through the arts. Various models for the study of this challenging book will be presented, as well as information about our exciting spring project for Disciples women.

REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ VA _____

Email _____

Church _____

Fees and Resources:

- \$8: Lunch and Program
- \$27: One-Year Subscription to *Just Women Magazine*, Lunch & Program
- \$44: Two-Year Subscription to *Just Women Magazine*, Lunch & Program
- \$27: *New Day Magazine*, Lunch & Program
- \$59: *New Day Sampler*, Lunch & Program
- \$19: Extra *New Day Leader's Guide*
- \$19: Extra *New Day Magazine*

DEADLINE: Form and fees must be received at the Regional Office by one week prior to the event to hold your place. Return reservation form with check payable to: Christian Church in Virginia, 1290 Enterprise Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24502

2010 DATES

Please call the individual church for directions or visit www.discipleswomenva.org

March 20: Petunia Christian Church, Wytheville — 276-228-4953

April 10: First Christian Church Hopewell — 804-458-6754

April 24: location to be announced (check the website)

May 22: Loudon Avenue Christian Church, Roanoke — 540-662-1334

SPA SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m.

Gathering and Registration
10:00 a.m.

Worship and Study
12:00 p.m.

Dedication of Blessing Box, Spring Projects, Library Fund, and Scholarship Fund Offerings. (Checks made out to CCINVA.)

12:30 p.m. — Lunch
1:15 p.m.

"Pass It On": What's going on this year for women in the Virginia Region

- Register me for Wytheville
- Register me for Hopewell
- Register me for Roanoke

Region to host International Guest in June

As part of the Disciples Women pre-Quadrennial Assembly celebration, the Christian Church in Virginia will be welcoming the Rev. Juliana Temparaja to our Region. Ms. Temparaja is an ordained minister of the Protestant Church of East Timor and currently is the Vice General Secretary of that Church. Her visit is being made possible by the Quadrennial Assembly Committee and Global Ministries.

East Timor is one of the poorest countries on earth. The country went through several years of violent conflict with Indonesia during its struggles to gain independence, first from the Portuguese, and then from Indonesia. When the Indonesian army left East Timor in 1999, they ransacked the country and killed thousands, unleashing much violence, particularly against women.

According to the Rev. Dr. James Vijayakumar, Area Executive for Southern Asia, Common Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), "Ms. Temparaja can speak quite a bit about the violence, rape and other atrocities suffered by women in East Timor, and their current struggles to get justice and stand on their own."

Ironically most of the pastors, including Juliana, had their theological training in Indonesia prior to the conflicts. The Protestant Church of East Timor (IPTL) also is



*Rev. Juliana Temparaja
of East Timor*

struggling to establish and strengthen itself. According to Rev. Vijayakumar, "For more than 25 years, during the freedom struggles and in the underground movements for freedom, IPTL was quite involved. Juliana, an ethnic East Timorean, will have a lot to say on that as well."

"I look forward to arranging her itinerary with our Disciples women and other opportunities for Juliana to speak in the Region," said Donna Webster, Director for Women's Ministries for the Virginia Region.

Juliana will begin her U.S. visit in North Dakota and Cleveland, OH, and then spend time in Virginia until June 21 when she travels to Greensboro, North Carolina for this year's Quadrennial.

Carpool to Quadrennial

Interested in attending the 2010 Disciples Women's Quadrennial Assembly and need a ride? Contact Donna Webster, Director of Women's Ministries, Christian Church in Virginia, at 540-639-1031, or email Donna at donnabirdct@aol.com.

Men's Retreat will encourage men to "Get Real"

The 2010 Disciples Men of Virginia retreat will be held April 9-11 at the W.E. Skelton 4-H Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake in Wirtz, Virginia. Newspaper columnist and author Derek Maul will be the featured speaker.

Author and teacher Derek Maul pens regular columns for the Tampa Tribune, FOCUS magazine, GA/FLA news, the Presbyterian Outlook and the Florida Methodist News Service.



Derek Maul

His commentary and features have appeared in many national publications, including *Newsweek*, *Guideposts*, *USA Today* and *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. Increasingly in demand as a keynote and conference speaker, Derek travels from coast to coast to share his positive message. He and his wife, Rebekah, a Presbyterian pastor, have two grown children.

The editor of *Presbyterians Today*, Eva Stimson, wrote regarding Derek's most recent book, *The Unmaking of a Part Time Christian*: "With the skill of a gifted storyteller, Derek Maul weaves his own life experiences into a practical and engaging guidebook for Christians seeking a deeper level of commitment."

As Derek himself put it, "I want guys to leave this retreat not just determined but inspired to see themselves as 'Jesus-followers' rather than members of the Christian club. Being a Jesus-follower is a systemic, integrated, way-of-life, immersed-in-God quality faith."

Once again, golf is being offered on Friday morning. Men's retreat registration information and details are available on the Region's website (www.ccinva.org) and the Disciples Men of Virginia website (www.disciplesmenva.org), or you may contact the regional office, 434-846-3400. Register by March 1 to qualify for a special book package by Derek Maul.



Make plans to attend
**QUADRENNIAL
ASSEMBLY**

JUNE 23-27, 2010
GREENSBORO, NC

Thousands of women
worshiping and
learning together!!

YOU WANT TO BE THERE!!

For more information and
to register online, go to
www.quadrennial.org

Earlybird deadline
is April 1, but check out
the QA Challenge at
www.discipleswomenva.org

Regional Assembly: Come to make connections

The biennial gathering of Disciples in Virginia will take place June 4-6, 2010, at Lynchburg College. While part of the purpose of this gathering is to attend to the business of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia, perhaps the most important thing that happens will be the connections made. This is a chance for folks from congregations all over the state to come together to talk, to pray, to sing, and to discover what God is doing in our midst.

We may get discouraged with the world around us and wonder "What's church got to do with it?" but Regional Assembly will remind us that we are still Christ's ambassadors in this world. Maybe we need to rethink how we do this, and that's where assembly keynoters come into the picture. Eddie Hammett and Randy Pierce, authors of *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60*, will give us insights into how the cultural changes taking place around us are going to impact how we do church and will ask questions that will help us proceed.

Other speakers will include Friday evening worship preacher

Rev. Sékinah Hamlin, Men's Luncheon speaker Rev. Ron Degges, and Women's Luncheon speaker Rev. Dorothy France.

A wide range of interest groups will offer opportunities to explore a myriad of subjects, from personal spirituality to legal issues in the church. All of them are aimed at

helping us to be more effective ambassadors for Christ.

Special entertainment will include "Laugh It Up" comedy and the Piedmont District Choir.

Programming is being planned for children and youth. They will help us with a mission outreach project by assembling emergency kits from items

brought to Assembly by participants. Look for more information on this in your registration confirmation.

The Assembly will conclude with an early worship service on Sunday morning, but participants are encouraged to plan to attend one of the churches in the Lynchburg area where General Church guests will be preaching.

For more information and registration information, go to www.ccinva.org.



Sermon on CD/DVD for congregations

Looking for someone to preach while your pastor is at Regional Assembly? The Regional Office has made arrangements for a sermon by Rev. Timothy James, Associate General Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), on CD/DVD for congregations to use on June 6, allowing their pastors the opportunity to attend the Regional Assembly through its closing on Sunday morning. Dr. Sharon Watkins' 2008 sermon is also still available.

To reserve your copy, email the Regional Office at disciples@ccinva.org with "Sermon DVD" in the subject line, include your mailing address and your preference: Timothy James *or* Sharon Watkins CD (audio only) *or* DVD (audio/video)

A contribution of \$5 for production and shipping costs would be appreciated.

Christmount & Lexington Theological Seminary co-sponsor Elders and Deacons Workshop to be held March 5 - 6, 2010

Since 1996, elders and deacons have gathered at Christmount to hear scholars discuss aspects of leadership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). From theology to Bible study to church history to practical advice, the workshop gives veteran and new church leaders inspiration and renewal in their commitment to the two main lay ministries in the Christian Church.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Margaret Ralph of LTS. Participants also attend two skillshops led by pastors, regional leaders, chaplains, spiritual directors, and others with experience in a variety of ministries.

For more information, go to www.christmount.org.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN ME?

2010 EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING

SUPPORTING THE GENERAL MINISTRIES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

RECEIVED IN MOST CONGREGATIONS MARCH 28 AND APRIL 4



Craig Springs News

2010 Schedule

May 28-31	Work Weekend
June 10-14	GAP Conference
June 14-18	Church Leadership Retreat
June 20-25	A.M.P.D.D.
June 27-July 2	CYF Conference
July 4-9	Special Camp
July 11-16	Nature Camp
July 18-23	Crossroads
July 25-30	Chi Rho Conference Outdoor Adventure
August 1-6	New Covenant
August 6-9	Family Retreat

Camp forms are available at
www.craigsprings.com

Please note: Early registration this year is May 15, rather than June 1.

Save the date: May 28-31 Spring Work Weekend

The fiftieth anniversary of Craig Springs is approaching. Plan to be a part of making our camp facilities "nifty at fifty."

Craig Springs photos sought

Pictures are needed of Craig Springs throughout the various seasons. If possible, these pictures would be scenic and focus more on landmarks and nature than on individuals. Please send high-resolution digital images to joshblack07@gmail.com or you may send prints to Josh Black, 6508 Kensington Rd, Richmond VA 23226. If you want the print returned, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

GAP Conference 2010

Craig Springs Camp and Retreat Center is proud to announce the 3rd annual GAP Conference, **Thurs., June 10 to Mon., June 14.** GAP Conference is for college-aged young adults ages 18 to 24 and offers a chance to participate in small group discussion, individual and team activities, mission work, recognizing God and finding purpose in life.

Perhaps one of the most exciting parts of GAP Conference is the music! Laura Hall (musician from the hit TV show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?") will again be the music keynote for GAP. Laura is a talented Disciple musician, as well as a kind and enthusiastic leader/encourager/songwriter/performer, and Improv specialist!

GAP is an excellent opportunity to reach out to young adults in your congregation/college/community. For more info contact Directors Steve & Rhonda Williams at (540) 721-6302, by email at sbrbwill@b2xonline.com or by FaceBook message to Rhonda Williams. See you on the mountain!

Volunteers and staff needed

For 2010 we need summer resident staff, Nature Camp counselors, and Nature Camp adult volunteers. Applications for all positions, as well as a wish list for Nature Camp, are available at www.craigsprings.com. **Nature Camp counselor and adult volunteer applications are due by March 15.**

Kid's Korner

The Convention on the Rights of the Child

Children have a unique status in our society. While they are entitled to the basic rights prescribed by our nation's constitution, their status, as minors, makes them vulnerable and in need of safeguards to ensure their protection. In recognition of their special status, in 1979 the United Nations wrote an inclusive legally-binding human rights treaty for all of the world's children. Ten years later the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. It was instituted as international law in 1990. Even though the United States was an active participant in the drafting process, we have yet to ratify this document. The US and Somalia are the only countries, out of 193, which have not ratified this document.

Our children are our future. They will be the decision-makers and leaders of tomorrow. They will set public policy and implement laws. "In order for children to thrive, childhood needs to be made a national as well as global priority." ("The Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child")

In order for the Convention to become law, it must first be approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and then voted on by the full Senate for ratification.

This is an important document for our country as well as for the Church. The rights of children should be a priority for our country; their rights should be a priority for our congregations. If you would like more information about the ratification of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, go online to www.childrightscampaign.org. A letter to your senators would also be helpful. Children have no voice unless we stand up and demand that they have one.

Workshops at Assembly

The Virginia Children's Ministry Task Force (CMTF) is alive and well. Two important workshops will be offered during the Regional Assembly in June. Elaine Austin will offer a workshop about adopting a Child Protection Policy in the local congregation. Kaye Edwards will offer a workshop about children and their image of God.

As always, if you are interested in the CMTF, please contact Elaine Austin at Belmont Christian Church in Roanoke at 540.343.7502 or email austinrva@cox.net

And a little child shall lead them...

A small child's eyes grew bigger and bigger as the minister of his church explained the events of Easter Sunday during a children's sermon. Finally the child could contain himself no longer and blurted out for all to hear, "We need to tell people about this!"

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for themselves. And we were privileged to live, work and worship alongside some wonderfully committed and faithful Christian sisters and brothers.

Now Haiti needs help climbing this latest “mountain” that has risen in front of them. There is no way for them to do it alone – the need is too great. There is the immediate need for medical aid, food resources and shelter for more than a million people who have lost everything. In the near future, help will be needed to begin to rebuild the infrastructure that has been destroyed. It’s hard to imagine how long that will take.

Another Haitian proverb says, “Ròch nan dlo pa konin mizè ròch nan solèy” or “rocks in the water don’t know the misery of rocks in the sunshine.” We can’t begin to understand or feel the despair, anguish and misery of the Haitian people. But we can reach out to them and offer what help we can. We should continue to hold the Haitian people before God in prayer. We can continue to give through Week of Compassion and Church World Service. We can advocate with our government for Haiti’s foreign debt to be forgiven and that all future aid be given as grants, not loans. And we can listen to our Haitian brothers and sisters, asking them what their needs are and how we might contribute.

One other “proverb” comes to mind. This one does not come from Haiti, but from a place called Corinth: “You are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1 Cor. 12:27) This is true whether we are members of Bedford Christian Church or Eglise Evangelique Marantha (a Haitian Disciples church in Miami), or an independent church in Port au Prince, Haiti. “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it...” (v. 26) May God give us the grace and the knowledge to know how to reach out to our suffering sisters and brothers in Haiti.

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Rev. Bill Moore is pastor of Bedford Christian Church.